



Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Victim Services Newsletter

Issue Number 28
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National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 10-16, 2005
★ SILVER ANNIVERSARY ★



Crime Victim Services
www.azvictims.org

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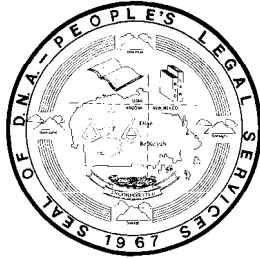
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The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Crime Victim Services Unit is to effectively administer VOCA Assistance funds by ensuring appropriate and accessible services are available to crime victims, enhancing the delivery of those services through technical assistance, training opportunities, and promoting a continuum of care for every victim in every community.



Fighting Elder Abuse

Under an AZ DPS-VOCA grant, DNA-People's Legal Services provide emergency legal advocacy services to victims of domestic violence in Coconino County (including Page), and the Navajo Nation portions of Apache, Coconino and Navajo Counties in Arizona. DNA also serves the Hopi, Hualapai, Havasupai, and Southern Paiute Tribes.

On the Navajo Nation, elder abuse is a serious problem. It takes the form of physical battering, verbal abuse, threatening with physical violence or weapons, sexual assault, neglecting basic daily needs and stealing monthly financial benefits. There is a Navajo Area Agency on Aging which serves the elders and investigates incidences of elder abuse. There is also a Dine Elder Abuse Protection Act, which allows elders to file for Protection Orders against their abusers.

Navajo geography, lack of basic services, and cultural customs complicate and create barriers to helping elders in these situations. Many elders live in remote areas of the Na-

vajo Reservation, often without running water, plumbing, or electricity, and certainly without phone service. Therefore, they rely on family members to haul water and wood for them, and to transport them 50 miles or more to the grocery store, bank, post office, or to the clinic. During inclement weather, the slippery mud keeps folks from going anywhere.

The Navajo custom of staying close to family can be a double-edged sword. On one hand, family members tend to live in the same area and are generally committed to deep respect for and assisting their elders, as is the Navajo tradition. On the other hand, if a family member is abusing an elder, there are few options. The abuser has no other place to go, and his/her other family members are reluctant to expel him/her from the family compound. Elders do not want to obtain Protection Orders because the defendant is their child or grandchild.

If they are called for assistance, Navajo Area Agency on Aging and Navajo Division of Social Services workers are forced to work with the abuser to stop the abuse rather than work to keep the abuser away from the elder. Sometimes this works and the abuser responds to traditional teachings and perhaps ceremonies. Often times this doesn't work, and the abuse continues with family members trying to intervene and thereby becoming victims themselves. Sometimes the solution is to move the elder from their home to be with

other family members or to a nursing home.

DNA started a campaign to educate elders about elder abuse, prevention methods and about elder rights under Navajo law. DNA's Community Education Coordinator, Anita Natonabah, travels to the Navajo Senior Centers and talks with the elders and service providers in the Navajo language about elder abuse.

This year, DNA is excited to work with the American Association of Retired Persons, who has an attorney who can come to the Navajo Nation free of charge and train the service providers about working with elder abuse situations and coordinating efforts, and educating elders about their rights and options available to them for assistance. DNA hopes to organize a conference for all service providers throughout the Navajo Nation, which will also be open to seniors and the general public.



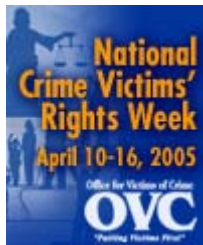
CVS Staff Change

After 27 years with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Jane Conder,

Administrative Supervisor for the Crime Victim Services Unit retired effective March 30, 2005.

The last eight years of her career were with the Crime Victim Services Unit, which she says "has been a very challenging and fulfilling experience. This assignment has given me the opportunity to work with many wonderful organizations and individuals that are impassioned with improving the lives of crime victims. After a brief hiatus, I plan to continue on a part-time/as needed basis with Crime Victim Services. So, this certainly is not good-bye, and I look forward to working with all of you in the future."

CVS will certainly miss Jane's presence, but we wish her well in her retirement.



2005 National Crime Victims' Right Week

April 10-16, 2005

The 25th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. During this Silver Anniversary observance we have an opportunity to join together to honor crime victims and those who serve them. *Justice isn't served until crime victims are.*

During 2005 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and throughout the year, remember that crime victims in Arizona have rights and there are a wide range of services to help them cope with the after-

math of criminal victimization. For more information about victims' rights and services in Arizona, please visit the DPS/CVS website at <http://www.azvictims.org>.

Arizona Events Calendar

April 10-16, 2005

Baja Fresh Mexican Grill restaurants will donate 15% of the proceeds to Arizona Coalition for Victim Services when you dine during National Crime Victim's Rights Week. For more information on dates and times visit their website: www.bajafresh.com for a location near you!

"Denim Day 2005"

April 21, 2005

Is the Second Annual Denim Day in Arizona. Arizonans across the state are urged to wear jeans to work on this day as an effort to dispel harmful myths about sexual violence. For more information call (602) 277-0119 or e-mail info@azsan.org if your workplace would like to participate.

Walk to End Domestic Violence

5k Run and Fitness Walk Wesley Bolin Plaza, Downtown Phoenix (17th Ave. & Washington St.)

The third annual Walk to End Domestic Violence is planned for Saturday, April 23, 2005 at 7 a.m. The Walk raises awareness of the critical issue of domestic violence, as well as funds for local domestic violence shelters and service providers. The 5K walk and competitive run course will take participants around the State Capitol, finishing at Wesley Bolin Plaza.

Governor Napolitano is scheduled to participate. Funds raised from the Walk will be distributed to local domestic violence shelters through a request for proposal process in June 2005. Last year's event attracted 3,800 walkers and raised more than \$200,000 in entry fees and pledges solicited by participants. Sponsored by The Arizona Republic and 12 News, the Walk is expected to draw more than 5,000 participants. For more information or to register on-line visit dvwalk.azcentral.com or contact Carolyn McBurney at (480) 329-8998.



Upcoming Events

May 3 - 4, 2005

The ACADV Annual Conference entitled "Overcoming Oppression Through Empowerment" will be held at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Road. The registration deadline is Monday, April 18, 2005 and space is limited. For more information contact LaTonia at (602) 279-2900 ext. 204 or by e-mail at ac@acadv.org.

June 20-25, 2005

The National Center for Victims of Crime will be holding its 1st national conference in Washington DC at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Highlights include more than 65 skill-building workshops and leading experts discussing a wide range of cutting-edge issues. Registration can be com-

pleted on-line at www.ncvc.org. For more information, contact NCVC at (202) 467-8755.

July 10-15, 2005—Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) offers a rare opportunity to live, work, study and interact with victim service providers from all areas of advocacy. Last year's academy was a huge success; don't miss the opportunity to send personnel to this quality training. For more information contact Katriasha Stuler, Academy Project Director at (480) 539-7476 or e-mail: AVAA@cox.net

July 16, 2005—Thunder in the Canyon @ Bellemont Harley-Davidson (10 miles west of I-17 on I-40, Exit 185). Participate in the Poker Run which begins @ 8 a.m. or support the riders in the million dollar ride for children. Concert begins at 10:30 a.m. Benefits will support children's programs throughout Arizona. For more information e-mail Bill Copeland at BCopeland@ChildhelpUSA.org or call Grand Canyon Harley-Davidson @ (928) 774-3896.

August 7-12, 2005

Atlanta, Georgia is the site of NOVA's 31st Annual North American Victim Assistance Conference. The annual "family reunion" is for victim assistance professionals from across North America and around the globe. For more information call (202) 232-6682 or go to NOVA's website @ www.trynova.org.



We always welcome input for articles in our quarterly newsletter. Forward ideas to your grant coordinator.